

RENSELAER COUNTY RADIO COMMITTEE

- ** Rensselaer County Public Safety Building, 4000 Main Street, Troy, New York 12180 518 270-4160 **
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REPRESENTING RENSELAER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS AND AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Mark Lacivita, Chairman Dave Jordan, Co-Chairman/Secretary

Web site: <http://sites.google.com/site/rensselaercountycommunications/home>

Radio Committee Meeting: Rensselaer County Public Safety Building
December 20, 2017

Attendance: D Basle (*Batt 3*), J Burt (*BPS*), A Manchester (*EMS-BPS*), J Lacivita (East Greenbush Chiefs), R McClave (*Batt 5*), T Stewart (*RACES - BPS*), B Stewart (*Batt 3*), R Mohan (*Wells Comm*), J Adams (*Wells Comm*), J Pritt (*Wells Comm*), B Cassidy Jr. (*Schodack Chiefs*), S Kelly (*Schodack Chiefs*), J Harris (*Batt 2*), P Glasser (*BPS*), I Wager (*BPS*), D Valyou (*Batt 1*), B Gummer (*BPS*), D Bruce (*RPIA*), M St. Germain (*Law – RCSO*), R Davis (*BPS*), M Lacivita (*Chairman – Batt 3*), D Jordan (*EMS/co-chairman*).

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Lacivita, at 1908.

1.) Reports

Director BPS – Ray Davis was present, and reported that he is the interim director

Deputy Director – not in attendance, no report [M Balistreri has left this position]

Communications Coordinator – No specific report, will speak on agenda items.

Communications Center Supervisor - J Burt mentioned that he is looking for agency's portable radio assignments (where the UID are assigned).

Fire Coordinator – Mentioned the extra training sessions are all completed.

EMS Coordinator – No report; wished everyone happy holidays!

Policy & Procedures – No activity, but tracking changes and may need to make some updates, based on input. Then will make it official. Had two dispatch related changes made, relating to repeating dispatch message and the use of alert tone. Nothing that was directly related to the 800 system. P Glasser mentioned he is getting some mutual aid chiefs concerns addressed. No complaints, other than some low volume issues on VHF pagers. T/o Schodack Chiefs asked for alert tones prior to page/dispatch message; per P Glasser – will discuss but may not see any great value (For changes, all comments will be discussed before making changes).

Law Enforcement – Nothing specific, Paul Glasser working to program test radios (Harris) in each PD

Highway – No report.

RACES – T Stewart had no report.

2.) Update/Status reports / Ongoing Issues

- 911 Center Update – Just about completed with improvements planned
- TriTech – Next Gen, CAD – The CAD system is progressing nicely; planning a meeting with governing board between agencies. The IaR testing info has been tested on the computers; text messages will still go out regardless. Box Alarms some addressing issues being worked on
- 800 system update – It is fully operational, a few items need yet to be addressed and short punch list exists mostly site related. Fiber at the Eagle Bridge tower site needs to be connected. The wireless backup is working, but the fiber is delayed with Spectrum; and the PSC has been involved in this since August.
- Mobile installations continue to be done by Wells Communications with a plan in place, dependent upon weather. (during bad weather, agencies closer to the WCS shop will get done.) They are working the northern part of the county first; currently on Route 40 area now. B Mohan has met with most chiefs regarding the installations. The control stations are planned to be completed by the end of the month.
- Training – no issues, there were enough classes to accommodate. The next step will be to re-write some of the training for a basic and advance level training. EMS – may need to discuss what is needed. There was some discussion with OFPC (B Rifenburg) for radio training being a part of the basic class. If any agency needs any additional training, please contact P Glasser.

3) Other Items:

R McClave from Stephentown mentioned that there were pager reception problem areas in Stephentown. Areas are intermittent; sometimes the pager will activate with little or no voice message heard. The volume level of the voice message is often very low. The Motorola system techs are coming after the first of January, and this will be brought to their attention. It was noted that new headsets were just ordered.

-The issue of a designated frequency for landing zones for helicopters had been discussed. The consultant feels that the 155.715 common channel could be used and five tower sites could support this (making pretty much county wide coverage). Although yet to be tested, dispatchers, when requested could “patch the 800 {zone5} channel to VHF (715).” This is targeted to be tested in January.

- Bennington Interoperation meeting needs yet to be scheduled.
- Fire departments who do EMS have concerns of being able to scan or monitor Ems channel The programmable feature of this is to be looked at.
- County Highway had some concerns how to communicate with fire departments in some areas.
- Another concern was the emergency alert button on top of speaker mics – can it be disabled? Perhaps alert only on the portable radio itself, and less apt to be accidentally activated from the speaker mic.
- It was mentioned that the 800 radios will not work inside the emergency room of Samaritan Hospital; only lobby area. It was noted that Troy Police radios have the same issue. It was mentioned that local government officials (i.e. Building or code officials) should consider the use of emergency services communications when

reviewing building plans and construction in local areas. Fire Departments should monitor this or talk with their local officials to ensure this component is not left out.

4.) Meeting Schedule

Our next Radio Committee meeting – February 14 at Clinton Heights (Station 8),
April 18 - at Pittstown Vol Emergency Corps (Station 57)

Meeting was concluded / adjourned at 2020 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Jordan

Co-Chairman, Secretary